

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A method as in claim 4 ~~8~~, further including the following steps:

downloading, from a server, into a local computer, code for controlling the display on the display screen;

executing the downloaded code using a browser, the downloaded code being in a mark-up language; and

generating the graphical input device by executing scripting that is embedded within the downloaded code.

3. (original) A method as in claim 2, in which the mark-up language is selected from the group consisting of HTML and its derivatives.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A data input method comprising:
downloading, from a server, into a local computer, code expressed in a mark-up language for controlling a display on a display screen, said downloaded code including a portion defining a drop-down menu associated with an input parameter, said drop-down menu having an initial input field and pre-determined initial input field display width of a first display width and being associated with a set of user-selectable choices, each user-selectable choice having a minimum required display width;

executing the downloaded code using a mark-up language-based browser;
in the local computer, embedding in the downloaded code by executing a subroutine that is embedded within the downloaded code, comprising computer-executable code for generating and displaying on the display screen a graphical input device as a non-menu, text-input graphic device in place of the defined drop-down

13 menu but having the general appearance of the drop-down menu, the graphical input
14 device also being associated with a-the user-selectableinput parameter and having a
15 pre-determined displayed data entry field of a first display width, the displayed data
16 entry field corresponding to the input field;
17 ~~associating a set of user dependent choices with the graphical input device;~~
18 in the subroutine, locally determining a greatest one of the minimum required
19 display widths;
20 ~~sensing user selection of the graphical input device;~~
21 ~~upon sensing user selection of the graphical input device, displaying on the~~
22 ~~screen a list of the user-dependent-selectable choices, the list having a second display~~
23 ~~width equal to the greatest minimum required display widths;~~
24 ~~sensing selection by a user of one of the user dependent choices; and~~
25 ~~displaying at least a portion of the selected user-dependent-selectable choice in~~
26 ~~the data entry field and setting the user-selectableinput parameter to the selected user-~~
27 ~~dependent-selectable choice; and~~
28 locally, automatically and dynamically choosing the second display width as a
29 function of the minimum required display widths of the user-dependent-selectable
30 choices, such that the second display width is automatically and dynamically expanded
31 expandable relative to the first display width; and
32 upon sensing selection by a user of one of the user-selectable choices, setting
33 the input parameter of the graphical input device to the currently highlighted user-
34 selectable choice.
35 ~~in which:~~
36 ~~the downloaded code is in a mark-up language;~~
37 ~~the subroutine is scripting embedded within the downloaded code; and~~
38 ~~the step of generating and displaying the graphical input device includes the sub-~~
39 ~~step of generating the graphical input device as a non-menu, text input graphic device~~
40 ~~but having the appearance of a drop-down menu.~~

6-7. canceled

1 8. (new) A method as in claim 5, further comprising associating different sets of
2 user-selectable choices with different users.

1 9. (new) A data input method comprising:

2 in a mark-up language-based browser, generating and displaying on a display
3 screen a graphical input device, the graphical input device being associated with an
4 input parameter and having a displayed data entry field of a first display width;

5 associating a current set of user-selectable choices with the graphical input
6 device, each user-selectable choice having at least one pair of information fields
7 separated by a delimiter and each information field comprising sequentially ordered
8 characters;

9 sensing user selection of the graphical input device;

10 upon sensing user selection of the graphical input device, displaying on the
11 screen a list of the user-selectable choices;

12 sensing user entry of a character sequence comprising at least one character;

13 sequentially and character-by-character searching of at least an initial information
14 field for each of the user-selectable choices according to each user-entered character;

15 for each character sequence of at least one user-entered character that matches
16 a corresponding character sequence in the initial information field of at least one user-
17 selectable choice, highlighting at least one of the matching choices for the user;

18 if no initial information field of the user-selectable choices has a character
19 sequence matching the user-entered character sequence, highlighting for the user at
20 least one user-selectable choice in a different information field whose initial characters
21 match the user-entered character sequence, whereby a matching user-selectable
22 choice can be located in more than one information field based on character-by-
23 character comparison with the same user-entered character sequence; and

24 upon sensing any acceptance action by the user, setting the input parameter to
25 the graphical input device to the currently highlighted user-selectable choice.

1 10. (new) A data input method comprising:
2 in a mark-up language-based browser in a user's computer, generating and
3 displaying on a display screen a graphical input device, the graphical input device being
4 associated with an input parameter and having a displayed data entry field of a first
5 display width;
6 associating a current set of user-selectable choices with the graphical input
7 device, each user-selectable choice having at least one pair of information fields
8 separated by a delimiter and each information field comprising sequentially ordered
9 characters;
10 sensing user selection of the graphical input device;
11 upon sensing user selection of the graphical input device, displaying on the
12 screen a list of the user-selectable choices, the list having a second display width;
13 by executing a script locally, within the user's computer, automatically and
14 dynamically determining a minimum display width necessary to make visible a widest
15 one of the user-selectable choices and automatically setting the second display width to
16 be at least as great as the minimum display width, whereby the second display width is
17 a function of the choices in the current set and is expandable relative to the first display
18 width;
19 associating with the graphical input device at least one acceptance action;
20 sensing user entry of a character sequence comprising at least one character;
21 sequentially and character-by-character searching of at least an initial information
22 field for each of the user-selectable choices according to each user-entered character;
23 for each character sequence of at least one user-entered character that matches
24 a corresponding character sequence in the initial information field of at least one user-
25 selectable choice, highlighting at least one of the matching choices for the user;
26 if no initial information field of the user-selectable choices has a character
27 sequence matching the user-entered character sequence, highlighting for the user at
28 least one user-selectable choice in a different information field whose initial characters
29 match the user-entered character sequence; and
30 upon sensing any acceptance action by the user, setting the input parameter of
31 the graphical input device to the currently highlighted user-selectable choice.

1 11. (new) A data input method as in claim 10, further comprising downloading
2 code and data expressed in the mark-up language for generating and controlling a
3 screen display, the data including the current set of user-selectable choices and the
4 code including a portion intended to generate a downloaded drop-down menu, in which:
5 the script is embedded in the downloaded code locally, that is, in the user's
6 computer, and is provided for generating and displaying the graphical input device in
7 place of the downloaded drop-down menu but as a non-menu, text-input graphic device
8 having the appearance of a drop-down menu.